

Minutes
POSCO PORCUPINE WOODS SUBCOMMITTEE
January 29 and February 2, 2013

Present: Chris Keller, Frank Obrimski, Cathy Rinzel (1/29), Ken Schwartz, and Suzanne Grefsheim, Chair, and Chris Petito, Town Council Liaison (2/2). Others present at one or both meetings: Peter Benjamin, Barbara Collier, Bob Flanders, Marian Green, Frank Grefsheim, Jack Mandel, Tina Shaffer, Monica Tinker, Hans Wegner, Janet Wegner, and Chris Wright.

At the direction of the Mayor the subcommittee held two meetings to gather input from Garrett Park residents prior to making its recommendations about the size and shape of the bamboo stand in Porcupine Woods. At the first meeting on Tuesday January 29 at 7:30pm in the Town Office, the subcommittee listened to various ideas about how large the bamboo stand should be for aesthetic and recreational purposes. The subcommittee also considered possible guidelines to limit the extent of the bamboo, including distance from the path and protection of selected trees. Forty-five feet was proposed as the minimum distance from the path, but others thought it could come much closer. There was general agreement that four specific trees should be protected from bamboo.

Two people present favored allowing the bamboo to extend into the Woods behind 10933 Montrose all the way to Clermont Avenue to create/maintain a screen. The majority present did not favor this, since 1.) this area is the only area that gets any significant amount of sun and where native shrubs such as the viburnum planted by the Arboretum Committee have a chance to take hold and prosper; 2.) bamboo falling onto Clermont Avenue can create a maintenance emergency; and 3.) the 1975 Parks Committee specifically stated that bamboo should be removed from this area of the Woods. Most people present thought the bamboo stand should extend from the property line between 10933 and 10935 Montrose to the property line between 10937 and 10939 Montrose.

Within those limits, Bob Flanders and Ken Schwartz agreed to stake out two possible configurations for the bamboo stand. The subcommittee agreed to meet in Porcupine Woods to consider these and other configurations on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 9:00am.

On February 2, after walking through the areas that had been staked out, the subcommittee and interested Garrett Park residents convened in the Town Office. Three potential configurations were considered. One, proposed by Bob Flanders, was basically an arc extending from one end of the proposed stand limit to the other. At some points it was as close as 26 feet from the path and it came closer to one of the protected trees than the other plans. The other two were very similar to each other, with one hewing to a minimum distance of 40 feet from the path at all points. The other extended the bamboo beyond this, allowing distances of about 30-35 feet from the path.

After hearing arguments pro and con for each option, and considering alterations to each, the subcommittee unanimously agreed to recommend the option that adheres to a minimum distance of 40ft from the path at all points, taking into consideration the need to accommodate mature trees and shrubs if necessary. The widest portion of the stand will be toward the southern portion of the stand and will be rounded at the end, creating a “paunch-like” shape. It will then curve in, tapering at the north end of the stand.

In the coming week members of the subcommittee will stake out the area the subcommittee intends to recommend for the bamboo stand and run yellow caution tape along the perimeter so everyone can get a sense of the density and extent of the stand.

Addendum: following are the results of the exercise described above with the approximate distances from the fence behind the Montrose properties to the 10 stakes and from the stakes to the path starting from the stake closest to Clermont Avenue and ending at the property corner between 10937 and 10939 Montrose Avenue.

	Fence to stake	Stake to path
Stake 1	19ft	63ft
Stake 2	29ft	53ft
Stake 3	35ft	40ft
Stake 4	30ft	40ft
Stake 5	25ft	40ft
Stake 6	24ft	40ft
Stake 7	28ft	40ft
Stake 8	26ft	45ft
Stake 9	17ft	56ft
Stake 10	0ft	71ft
Distance from drip line of Magnolia to bamboo stand.		14ft

The resulting line was adjusted to accommodate an existing tree only once at the tapering end of the stand between Stakes 9 and 10.